



SR0701

LRB099 12951 MST 36811 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Charleston Mayor Larry Wayne Rennels, who passed away on June 25, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Rennels was born in Charleston on July 31, 1947 to Morris E. and Helen E. (nee Snyder) Rennels; he graduated from Charleston High School in 1965 and the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering; during his college years, he was a member of ROTC; he married Mary Ann Gibbons on August 24, 1968 in Mattoon; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Rennels was employed by Motorola, Inc., designing and managing the design of pagers and 2-way radios; during his 11-year tenure with Motorola, he developed, designed, and was issued a patent; he held the position of Product Manager, International Communications Products; and

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WHEREAS, In 1980, Mayor Rennels and his wife decided to return to Charleston and make it their permanent home; in 1987, he followed in his father's footsteps as owner of Rennels TV & Appliance and was committed to offering the same professional and reliable service; he operated the store until its closing in 2010; and

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1 WHEREAS, Mayor Rennels became actively involved in the
2 Charleston community; in 1994, he was appointed Chairman of the
3 City of Charleston Alcohol Task Force; in 1997, he was elected
4 to the Charleston City Council; he was a member of the
5 Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, serving
6 as its President in 1998, and was named its Outstanding Citizen
7 of the Year in 2004; he has also served on the Eastern Illinois
8 University President's Cabinet and has been instrumental in
9 fostering better relations with the university as a member of
10 the EIU External Relations Committee; he was a member of the
11 first class of the Citizen's Police Academy, a member of Coles
12 County Crime Stoppers, and a member of the Hilltop Advisory
13 Board; he was a member and past President of the Community
14 Based Youth Service Board, which operated in 7 counties; he was
15 previously a member of the Autism Society; and

16 WHEREAS, Mayor Rennels was elected Mayor of Charleston in
17 2013; and

18 WHEREAS, Mayor Rennels was a member of Immanuel Lutheran
19 Church in Charleston, serving as a past member of the Board of
20 Directors, as a member of the Board of Elders, as a member of
21 the Properties Committee, and as past President of the
22 congregation; he has also shared his technological expertise
23 assisting with the operation of audio and video equipment and

1 imparting his knowledge to others; and

2 WHEREAS, Mayor Rennels was preceded in death by his parents
3 and Mary Ann's parents, Frank and Mildred Gibbons; and

4 WHEREAS, Mayor Rennels is survived by his wife of 47 years,
5 Mary Ann; their sons, David Rennels and Matthew and wife, Dr.
6 Tasha Rennels; his sister, Marcia Cox and her husband, Mick;
7 his niece, Emily (Bill) Kobler and their children, Addie and
8 Callie; his nephew, Brandon (Staci) Cox and their children,
9 Jackson and Griffin; his stepmother, Crystal Rennels; his aunt,
10 Betty Snyder; and his brother-in-law, Dr. Thomas Gibbons;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 Charleston Mayor Larry Wayne Rennels, and extend our sincere
15 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
16 him; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Mayor Rennels as an expression of
19 our deepest sympathy.